

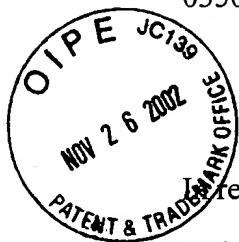
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Here Application of:

HIROKI YOSHIDA

Application No.: 09/964,658

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: MULTI-BEAM SCANNING
OPTICAL APPARATUS AND
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
USING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 2852

November 25, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,786,911
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,134,040
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,154,303
- (4) Europe 0 804 015
- (5) Japan 6-347713
- (6) Japan 10-20222
- (7) Japan 2000-19448
- (8) Japan 2000-131632

References (1) and (4) to (8) were cited in a European Search Report for a European patent application corresponding to the subject U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated October 25, 2002, is enclosed.

References (2) and (3) are English-language counterparts to Reference (7).

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The concise explanation of relevance for Japanese References (5) to (8) is believed to be provided by the European Search Report and by the English-language abstracts which have been located and enclosed for each of these references.

The European Search Report also cites Japan 9-54263. However, this reference was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated November 28, 2001, and is therefore not included in this Information Disclosure Statement.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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